

I had previously heard of him as a very good surgeon and, what is perhaps even more important, as a very fine and kind man. This I found out for myself the moment I stepped into his office. After he had examined me and I had expressed my fears to him, he said kindly, "Do not worry; I myself am going to see to it that you have a bed in the Jewish General Hospital within a week and I myself will perform the operation. Because of your circumstances, I will not charge you anything and the hospital bill we shall send to the City Hall." And so it was. Four days later I received a telephone call to come to the hospital. Soon after, I was operated on by Dr. Max Ratner, who became my real benefactor and a very dear friend of mine.

After my discharge from hospital he insisted that I should see him at intervals in his private office. Not only did he not charge me anything for these visits, but he also supplied me with pills. After that we saw each other pretty often, for I live near his office. Every time he would stop me, inquiring about my health and being glad to hear that I was all right. The last time I saw him was just a few weeks before he died.

There are no words strong enough to describe my immense gratitude to this wonderful doctor and man and my profound sadness because of his death. I wish to express my deepest and most sincere sympathy to his family on their great loss. May the thought that their dear departed one was a very fine and kind man and thus has endeared himself to many of his patients including myself, be to them a little consolation in their grief. And to you, my very dear and unforgettable Max, in bowing my head in deep reverence, I say: "Rest in peace until we meet again in a better world, where there will be no suffering and death."

STANLEY GRABIANSKI

1183 Bishop Street,
Montreal, Que.,
January 12, 1956.

METHYL ALCOHOL POISONING

To the Editor:

Doctors D. J. Tonning, D. W. Brooks and C. M. Harlow are to be congratulated on their impressive piece of work (*Canad. M. A. J.*, 74: 20, 1956). To my knowledge, theirs is the only outbreak of methyl alcohol poisoning of any magnitude without mortality or residual blindness.

I am sure the profession would like to know to what factors Dr. Tonning attributes his remarkable therapeutic success.

C. KONYER, M.D.

De Pauls Lane,
Burlington, Ont.,
January 11, 1956.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Subscribers should notify the Canadian Medical Association of their change of address *two* months before the date on which it becomes effective, in order that they may receive the Journal without interruption. The coupon on page 73 is for your convenience.

OBITUARIES

DR. FERNAND BELISLE, surgeon at Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, Valleyfield, Que., died on January 5 at the age of 38. A native of St. Stanislas de Champlain, he graduated in medicine from Laval University and subsequently specialized at hospitals in Philadelphia and Williamsport, Pa. At the time of his death he had been attached to the Valleyfield hospital for only 18 months.

Dr. Belisle is survived by his widow and a daughter.

DR. JOHN CALVIN BLACK, 74, for 50 years a medical practitioner in Regina, Sask., died there on January 13. Dr. Black was born at Oxford Station, Ont., and graduated from McGill University in 1905. He had been in general practice in Regina continuously since that date. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and an active member of several other medical organizations.

Dr. Black is survived by his widow, a son and a daughter.

DR. JULES A. BRIEN, 60, deputy superintendent of the Montreal food inspection service, died as a result of a heart attack on January 21. A graduate of the University of Montreal, he entered the public health service in 1930 and shortly afterwards took postgraduate studies at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Brien was also a professor at the School of Hygiene, University of Montreal.

DR. FRED BRILLINGER, a practising physician in Peekskill, N.Y., for the past 28 years, died on January 10 after a short illness. Dr. Brillinger, who was born in Stouffville, Ont., in 1901, graduated from the University of Toronto in 1925. After three years' internship at Grasslands Hospital, New York, he opened a practice in Peekskill. During World War II he served for three years in the U.S. Army with the rank of colonel.

Dr. Brillinger is survived by his widow (also a physician), a son and a daughter.

DR. JOHN MACKENZIE BROWN, 77, Los Angeles, Calif., physician, died in that city on December 31. Although he had carried on most of his medical career in the United States, he was a native of London, Ont., and a graduate of the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Brown was in charge of the ear, nose and throat service at the Los Angeles General Hospital. He had served as president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology and of the Otolaryngology Society.

Dr. Brown is survived by his widow and two sons.

DR. KENNETH F. DAVIS, 50, chief of the male medical service at the Weston Sanatorium, died in hospital on January 12 after a lengthy illness. A native of Toronto and graduate of the University of Toronto in 1929, Dr. Davis had served in sanatoria as a staff doctor for 25 years.

Dr. Davis is survived by his widow, four sons and one daughter.

DR. SYLVIO DRAGON, 59, physician of St. Hyacinthe, Que., died on January 20 after a long illness. A native of St. Denis-sur-le-Richelieu, Dr. Dragon was educated at the St. Hyacinthe Seminary and graduated in medicine at the University of Montreal in 1924.

Dr. Dragon is survived by his widow, three sons and two daughters.

DR. JAMES J. HOGAN, Point St. Charles, Que., physician, died on January 21 in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, after a long illness. A graduate of Edinburgh University and McGill University, he subsequently

studied at Harvard before going into practice as an industrial physician.

Dr. Hogan is survived by his father, two brothers and a sister.

DR. IVAN W. JAMES, 58, died on January 15 in California. Dr. James was a graduate of Queen's University, Kingston, and was formerly in practice in Carleton Place, Ont. In 1941 he became a member of the Canadian Pension Commission.

DR. WILLIAM S. JOHNS, 55, physician of Port Credit, Ont., and vice-president of the Peel Memorial Hospital, died on January 17 after suffering a heart attack. Born in Windsor, he graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1928 and interned at the Toronto General Hospital. A medical practitioner and surgeon in Port Credit for the past 10 years, he was previously on the staff of the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children.

Dr. Johns is survived by his widow, two daughters and a son.

DR. HARRY BELL KIDD, 59, Ottawa physician and assistant medical director of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for the last 20 years, died on January 18 in Florida. A native of Burritt's Rapids, he graduated in medicine from Queen's University in 1929. For several years he was associated with the late Dr. R. S. Stevens, Ottawa heart specialist. After postgraduate courses at two United States hospitals he joined the medical staff of the life insurance firm in 1935, and was appointed medical director at the head office in 1936. He also served as secretary and subsequently as president of the Ottawa Medical Reporting Society, and was a charter fellow of the Ottawa Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Kidd is survived by his widow.

DR. HENRY EDGAR MORGAN, 74, Chesley general practitioner, died on January 4 in Victoria Hospital, London, Ont., after a short illness. Dr. Morgan, who was born in Treacastle, Ont., graduated in medicine at the University of Toronto in 1907. After internship at Fergus for a year he took up practice in Pinkerton for a few months. He established his practice in Chesley in 1909 and was active in it until shortly before his death.

Dr. Morgan is survived by two brothers and four sisters.

DR. LEONARD E. MYLKS, 79, former general practitioner in Birch Hills, Sask., and Niagara Falls, Ont., and former medical officer for the Board of Education in Peterborough, Ont., died in Kingston early in January. Dr. Mylks was born in Algonquin and graduated from Queen's University in 1903. He retired from general practice in 1949 and had since lived on Wolfe Island, near Kingston.

DR. WILFRID S. PETERS died at Brandon, Man., on January 8. Born at Spencerville, Ont., 67 years ago, he went west with his family in 1890. After graduating from Manitoba Medical College in 1910, he practised at Souris and Brandon. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and the President of the Manitoba Medical Association in 1938-39. In his later years he restricted his practice to obstetrics and gynaecology.

DR. EARL ALLARD SMITH, 68, formerly a physician and surgeon in Brantford, Ont., died on January 21. A graduate of the University of Toronto, he was in general practice in Brantford from 1919 to 1940, when he became a member of the medical staff of the Ontario Hospital at New Toronto. He served in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps throughout World War I.

Dr. Smith is survived by his widow and two daughters.

DR. THOMAS TURNBULL, a resident of Winnipeg for over 50 years and one of the first eye specialists in the city, died on January 11 at the age of 83. He was born at Stratford, Ont., and graduated in medicine from McGill University in 1899. For many years he was associated in practice with the late Dr. J. W. Good. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Turnbull is survived by his widow.

DR. R. RUSSELL WADDELL, 56, a former chairman of the medical staff of the Hamilton General Hospital, died on January 2 after a brief illness. A native of Hamilton, he graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto, and did postgraduate studies in both the United States and Europe before beginning his practice in 1928.

Dr. Waddell is survived by his widow and a son.

DR. JAMES T. WALL, 65, Vancouver general practitioner, died suddenly on January 13. A graduate of McGill University, Dr. Wall was born in Nanaimo and had lived in British Columbia nearly all his life. He remained in practice until a year ago, when he entered semi-retirement and moved to NanOOSE, B.C.

Dr. Wall is survived by his widow, one son and two daughters.

DR. ARTHUR FELIX. We regret to announce the death in London, England, of Dr. Arthur Felix, who was born in Poland in 1887 and gave his name to the Weil-Felix reaction for typhus.

PROFESSOR HORST OERTEL, late Professor of Pathology at McGill University, died in London on January 9, 1956, at the age of 84. Born at Oberlossnitz in Germany, he graduated in medicine at Yale University and then returned to Germany for postgraduate study in Berlin. Under Wundt at Leipzig he absorbed training not only in pathology, but in logic, philosophy and biology. He was a wide reader, and learned to look at history from an objective point of view. In 1907 he was appointed director of the Russell Sage Institute of New York and later spent a year at Guy's Hospital working on experimental nephritis and kidney development. In 1904 he was appointed associate professor of pathology at McGill and pathologist to the Royal Victoria Hospital. Later he was appointed professor of pathology to the University. He received this appointment at a time when there was still in a few men's minds much prejudice against things German. The appointment was therefore at first strongly criticized by these few. But his students (most of whom at first were themselves ex-servicemen) were fortunately more elastic in outlook. With them he soon became popular. He was a good teacher, with a complete grasp of his subject, and had clearcut, emphatic methods in lecturing. Perhaps his material was rather crowded with detail, and his rapid delivery made it difficult to keep up with him. But one student capitalized on this by taking down the lectures *in extenso* and having them printed in pamphlet form. As the lectures did not vary to any extent from year to year these copies were in great demand. Like many other teachers Professor Oertel had his particular *bête noire*, and he would frequently attack the long-held but to him completely erroneous view that there was any causal relationship between alcohol and cirrhosis of the liver.

He made friends of his students. His study door was always open and he gave freely of advice and guidance. As soon as the Osler Club of McGill was formed he was drawn into it, and became a steady supporter. He has left a definite impress of his personality on the teaching of pathology at McGill.

H.E.M.